

PART VI

LIVESTOCK, DAIRYING AND POULTRY

General

Sale of livestock and livestock products earned \$3,596,711 for Franklin County farmers in 1959, a value which ranked 18th among all Washington counties. The livestock industry in the county accounts for about a fourth of the value of all farm products sold. Although raising and feeding cattle constitute a large majority of livestock enterprises; there is a greater emphasis on raising hogs and sheep here than in most other Washington counties. The number of hogs on Franklin County farms ranked fifth statewide in 1959 and sheep and lamb numbers were seventh. Emphasis on livestock and livestock products has increased in recent years, with the exception of poultry and eggs, to take advantage of increased markets, irrigated pastures and feed supply. Recent gains in alfalfa acreage have increased the amount of legume hay so essential to quality beef and high volume milk production.

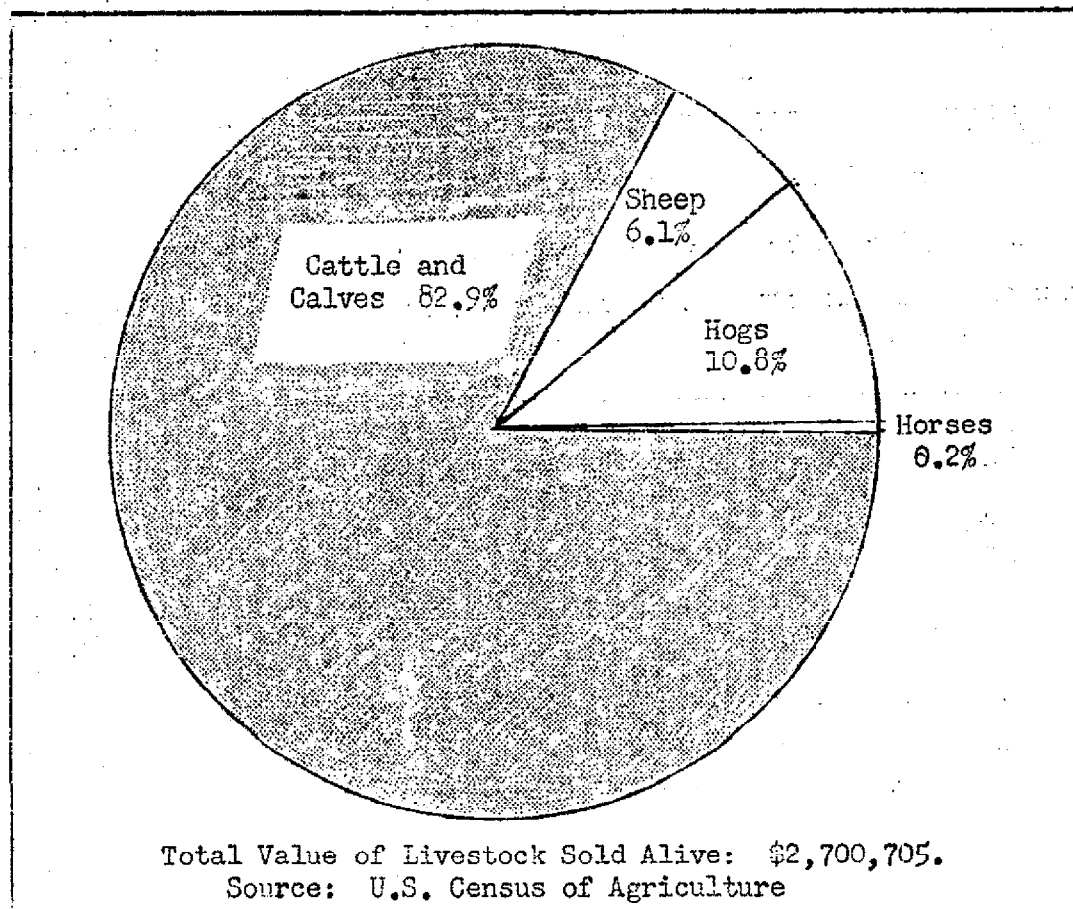


Figure 12. Value of Livestock Sold Alive, Franklin County, 1959.

Beef Cattle and Dairying

Beef cattle numbers have more than tripled since irrigation began on Columbia Basin Project lands, from 5,200 in 1950 to 19,000 in 1962. The increased supply of alfalfa, corn, sugar beet tops, and other feed materials from irrigated farms has helped create a cattle feeding industry. There has been a general shift within the Project boundaries from cow-calf to small and large scale feeding operations..

Most farms (474 in 1959) keep at least a few head of beef or milk animals to better utilize crop residues. Large feedlots having over a thousand head capacity each have been established at Pasco and Connell. Fifty-nine percent of farms reporting cattle on hand in 1959 had fewer than 20 head, 34 percent had from 20 to 99, and 7 percent had 100 or more. Cow-calf beef operations in the county are largely confined to ranches in the eastern drylands on range unsuitable for wheat production. Sales of live beef and dairy animals from 342 farms earned \$2,238,489 in 1959.

Dairy cattle numbers have increased from 700 head in 1951 to 3,500 head in 1962. Sales of whole milk showed a tremendous increase between 1954 and 1959, rising from 1,800,000 to 17,900,000 pounds. The value of all milk and cream sold in this period jumped from \$86,101 to \$795,271. Part of this increase is explained by the greater number of dairy animals. Also, farmers now are selling much more of their milk as whole milk rather than selling cream as they did previously.

Table 33. Livestock Numbers on Farms,
Franklin County, 1949-1962.

Year	All Cattle (head)	Beef Cattle (head)	Dairy Cattle (head)
1949	6,200	5,400	800
1950	6,100	5,200	900
1951	6,000	5,300	700
1952	6,700	5,900	800
1953	8,500	7,600	900
1954	9,400	8,400	1,000
1955	10,500	9,500	1,000
1956	10,900	9,700	1,200
1957	10,400	9,200	1,200
1958	12,000	10,600	1,400
1959	15,300	13,900	1,400
1960	20,800	17,700	3,100
1961	21,500	18,100	3,400
1962	22,500	19,000	3,500

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

Table 34. Dairy Products Sold from Farms,
Franklin County, 1949-1959

Year	All Milk or Cream Sold (dollars)	Whole Milk Sold (pounds)	Cream Sold (pounds)
1949	36,221	626,639	15,419
1954	86,101	1,804,440	9,227
1959	795,271	17,875,136	1,667

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Sheep, Hogs, and Horses

Sheep numbered 28,806 on county farms in 1950, then decreased to 6,105 in 1954. By 1959 they were back up to 16,550. The trend has been from large range bands to small flocks on irrigated farms. Of 84 farms reporting sheep on hand in 1959 only nine had 500 or more. The few remaining large range sheep operations are

mainly on drylands in the eastern part of the county around Kahlotus and near the western boundary. Sheep and lambs were sold alive from 75 farms in 1959 for \$163,839, and 64 farms sheared 153,972 pounds of wool.

Table 35. Hogs, Sheep, Wool Shorn and Horses and Mules on Franklin County Farms, 1940-1959

Year	Hogs and Pigs (head)	Sheep and Lambs		Horses and Mules (head)
		(head)	Wool Shorn (pounds)	
1940	799 ^{1/}	27,672 ^{2/}	308,903	1,003 ^{3/}
1945	678	25,889	297,527	74
1950	760	28,806	213,395	21
1954	628	6,105	58,421	320
1959	8,902	16,550	153,972	567

^{1/} Animals four months old and over--1940 only.

^{2/} Animals six months old and over--1940 only.

^{3/} Animals three months old and over.

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Increased local supplies of corn, barley, and chopped alfalfa have favored expansion of commercial hog raising, and numbers increased from 628 in 1954 to 8,902 in 1959. Hog raising is generally a sideline business--of the 239 farms having hogs in 1959, 111 had under 10 head. Feeder herds of 100 or more hogs were reported by 15 farms. Hog sales earned \$291,357 on 165 farms in 1959.

Tractors have nearly eliminated the need for horses and mules as work animals in Franklin County as in the rest of the country. A few are still used for working cattle, riding fences, etc., but the majority are now kept for pleasure. The war years from 1940 to 1945 saw horses and mules drop from 1,003 to 74 head. Numbers have been on the increase since 1950, reaching 567 in 1959.

Poultry

Poultry business has shown some fluctuation in recent years. Egg sales increased from 55,786 dozen in 1949 to 122,287 dozen in 1954, then fell off to 99,844 dozen in 1959. Chicken numbers have followed a similar trend. Only 123 turkeys were raised in the county in 1959 as compared to 7,519 in 1949 and 3,607 in 1954. Newly settled families on irrigation tracts often turn initially to poultry as a quick cash source, then change their operation to field crops.

Table 36. Chickens, Eggs and Turkeys, Franklin County, 1939-1959

Year	Chickens on Farms	Egg Production (dozens)	Turkeys Raised
1939	16,415	115,693	216
1944	15,876	117,230	2,650
1949	12,476 ^{1/}	55,786 ^{2/}	7,519
1954	21,100 ^{1/}	122,287 ^{2/}	3,607
1959	14,844 ^{1/}	99,844 ^{2/}	123

^{1/} Birds four months old and over.

^{2/} Eggs sold; figures for years before 1949 represent total production.

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture.